GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4252
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Exploration Activities by National Mineral Exploration Trust
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up National Mineral Exploration Trust for exploring minerals;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the locations where the said trust has found out minerals while exploration activities during the past one year with the names and quantity of minerals explored;
(c) whether there is any proposal to explore minerals in Nagpur, Wardha and Amrawati in Vidharbha region; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) & (b): In pursuance of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act 2015, the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) was set up vide gazette notification No. G.S.R. 633 (E) dated 14.8.2015. The National Mineral Exploration Trust Rules 2015 were also notified vide Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 632 (E) dated 14.8.2015. The amendment Act prescribes payment to the NMET, a sum equivalent to 2% of the royalty paid in terms of the minerals listed in the Second Schedule. The prime objective of NMET is promoting mineral exploration in the country.

Proposals on mineral exploration were been invited from all the States and a Technical Committee of experts was constituted to evaluate the proposals. The Technical Committee recommended 13 blocks in 6 States for exploration, to the Executive Committee of NMET for approval. The Executive Committee approved exploration in these 13 blocks on 9.5.2016.

Further, the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Mines has been declared as the nodal agency to execute the mineral exploration projects under NMET. MECL has commenced exploration in 11 blocks.

The State-wise details of these blocks are given below:

State Block Mineral Estimated Cost
(Rs.lakhs)

1

Odisha (i) Jumka- Pathiriposhi Block, Sundargarh Distt. Iron-ore 772.68
(ii) Purheibahal- Chandiposhi Block, Sundargarh Distt. Iron-ore 265.33
2 Maharashtra (i) Mandri − Panchala Block, Nagpur Distt Manganese 130.31
(ii) Lanjera− Futala Block, Bhandara Distt. Manganese 148.98

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Chhattisgarh (i) Ranigaon- Gondaiya Block, Bilaspur Distt. Limestone 100.52
(ii) Nahardih- Madhaipur Block, Raipur Distt. Limestone 27.89
(iii) Sendurkhar Block, Kabirdham (Kawardha) Distt. Bauxite 45.13
(iv) Saraipani- Dadar Block, Kabirdham (Kawardha) Distt. Bauxite 44.66

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Madhya Pradesh (i) Ghunchihai Block, SatnaDistt. Limestone 57.75

(ii) Jamodi- Mahanna Block,
Satna Distt. Limestone 59.49
(iii) Naubasta- Kolard Block,
Satna Distt. Limestone 65.36
5 Karnataka G.R. Halli South Block, ChitradurgaDistt. Gold 443.20
Total 2161.30

(c) & (d): Two mineral exploration projects on manganese ore have been initiated by MECL in the Nagpur and Bhandara districts of Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra. The Mandri − Panchala Block in Nagpur district covers an area of 2.5 sq.km. The Lanjera− Futala Block in Bhandara district covers an area of 8 sq km.

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